



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/700,256	11/03/2003	Drew Gant	60,210-190	3673

27305 7590 03/22/2006

HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS, P.C.
THE PINEHURST OFFICE CENTER, SUITE #101
39400 WOODWARD AVENUE
BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48304-5151

EXAMINER

YABUT, DIANE D

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3734

DATE MAILED: 03/22/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because on line 2 it reads "various shaped and sizes," and should instead read --various shapes and sizes--. Also, the abstract should include the cup element in detail, as well as its placement within a bearing, which is within a housing aperture. This should be included after the sentence "The surgical saw blade coupler includes a cap, a pin, and a driver." Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: On page 7, paragraph 0039: "first end **58**"; "second end **60**"; "cutting edge **62**"; "plurality of teeth **64**"; "blade slot **66**". Also, on page 8, paragraph 0041: "cup aperture **90**." Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Art Unit: 3731

3. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: In **Figure 12**, reference characters **12a** , **68A'** , **68B'** , **68C'** , **68D'** , and **68E'** . Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-27 are allowed.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

None of the prior art of record, alone or in combination, discloses a surgical saw blade coupler for removably holding a surgical saw blade that comprises a cup element, with a first end defining a cup aperture and a second end having a lip for limiting inward movement of the cup through a housing aperture. None of the prior art of record, alone or in combination, has the configuration of a cup, or cup-like structure, disposed in a bearing, wherein the bearing is disposed in a housing aperture of a housing. Prior art of

Art Unit: 3731

record do disclose surgical saw blade couplers with similar structures of a housing, a pin, a cap, a bearing, and a driver coupled to a motor, yet lack the present invention element of a cup, or a cup-like structure, disposed in a bearing, which is further disposed in a housing aperture.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Matthai (Patent No. **5468247**) discloses a saw blade for powered medical handpiece that has a sleeve bearing and chuck.

7. This application is in condition for allowance except for the following informal matters:

See above paragraphs 1-3.

Prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for reply to this action is set to expire **TWO MONTHS** from the mailing date of this letter.


Art Unit: 3731

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Diane Yabut whose telephone number is (571) 272-6831. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 9AM-4PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anhtuan Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-4963. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DDY


ANHTUAN T. NGUYEN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
3/17/06